

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend FIG. 4 of the drawings by substituting the attached Replacement Sheet 3/3. The only change to FIG. 4 is a change of one numeral to eliminate duplication of numeral 82 that designated two different elements in the original drawing. The element beneath element 76 has been renumbered as element 81.

For completeness, and so that all drawing sheets in the application file are on the same size paper (8 ½" x 11"), also attached to this Amendment are Replacement Sheet 1/3 and Replacement Sheet 2/3.

REMARKS

Withdrawn Claims 12-18 have been cancelled. After entry of this Amendment, the Application will contain 15 claims including 3 independent claims (Claims 1, 8, and 19). No additional fee is due.

The specification has been amended to correct minor errors. Paragraph [0015] has been amended to correctly describe Figure 4 as a side view, and correct a grammatical error in the penultimate sentence. Paragraph [0016] has been amended to correct a grammatical error in the second sentence. Paragraph [0017] has been amended to change the numeral of the mounting block from 82 to 81, consistent with the amendment being made to FIG. 4 of the drawings. In the accompanying Replacement Sheet 3/3, numeral 82 in FIG. 4 now designates only light beam 82, consistent with the description in paragraph [0018]. These changes to FIG. 4 and the specification eliminate the duplicate use of numeral 82 on different elements.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-11 recite allowable subject matter. The objection to Claim 8 as containing an informality has been attended to by amending Claim 8 in the manner proposed by the Examiner. Thus, Claims 1-11 are all now believed to be in proper form for allowance. The informality in Claim 20 has also been attended to by amending Claim 20 in the proposed manner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to Claims 8 and 20.

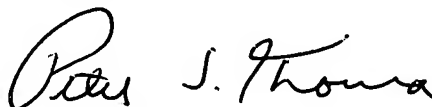
Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asoma et al. (U.S. Patent 6,529,454) in view of Fujii (U.S. Patent 5,583,704). The Office Action states that Fig. 7 of the Asoma '454 patent shows reflected light beams L3-L5 being parallel and adjacent to light beam L1. However, these light beams all follow paths that are directed transversely to the elements 70 and 61, rather than longitudinally. Claim 19 has been amended to clarify that the parallel and adjacent light beams are directed longitudinally through the elongated glass element. Claim 19 (originally and as amended) uses the language "along its length" to describe this relationship. The term "longitudinally" (added by amendment) consistently describes the same orientation. The device described in the Asoma '454 patent fails to meet this claimed feature. The Fujii '704 patent fails address this claimed feature. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 19 is patentable over Asoma in view of Fujii.

Claim 19 supports the patentability of Claim 20. Moreover, a significant space (about half the width or diameter of each lens) can be seen between lens 64 and lens 65 in Fig. 7 of Asoma. Therefore, the “abutting” relationship recited in Claim 20 as amended is not shown in the Asoma ‘454 patent. The claimed “abutting” relationship of the lenses is seen in FIG. 3 of the present application wherein lenses 30 and 32 meet at a common surface at the center of the lens element 12, so that there is essentially no space separating lenses 30 and 32.

New Claim 21 recites that the material for the claimed mirror consists essentially of a thin titanium nitride film, which paragraph [0014] of the specification describes as preferred. The Fujii ‘704 patent discloses titanium oxide but not titanium nitride. New Claim 22 depends from Claim 21 and recites the feature disclosed in paragraph [0014] in which the thin titanium nitride film has a reflectivity of about 62 percent.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 19 and 20 recite patentable subject matter and request withdrawal of their rejection based on Asoma in view of Fujii. New Claims 21 and 22 further define Applicants’ invention. Accordingly, allowance of all pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter J. Thoma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Thoma" clearly distinguishable.

Peter J. Thoma
Reg. No. 28,121